Remarks

Claims 2 – 11, 13 – 22, 25, and 28 – 33 have been pending. Claims 30 – 32 are allowed. Claims 11, 13, 25, and 33 are being amended. Claim 27 is being canceled.

Applicants are hereby amending claims 11 and 13 to recite the limitation that the priming composition or pressure sensitive adhesive is capable of adhering to a substrate comprising acid functional groups (basis therefor being found, for example, at page 2, lines 10 – 14 and 23 – 25; at page 3, line 30, through page 4, line 2; and at page 4, lines 9 – 12). Similarly, Applicants are amending claims 25, 30, and 33 to recite the limitation that the backing or surface comprises acid functional groups.

Rejections under § 102 and § 103

Claims 2 – 6, 8 – 11, 13 – 14, 16 – 22, 25, and 29, and 33 have been rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 380 236 (Leir). Claims 7, 15, and 28 have been rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leir. The rejections are traversed for the following reasons.

Leir discloses water-dispersible organopolysiloxane polyurea block copolymers comprising the repeating unit of formula I (see, for example, page 3, line 30, through page 4, line 11, of Leir).

Applicants claim priming compositions, pressure sensitive adhesives, and articles comprising a polydiorganosiloxane polyurea copolymer comprising electron rich groups selected from the group consisting of tertiary amine groups, pyridine groups, and combinations thereof, the priming composition being capable of adhering to a substrate comprising acid functional groups.

The Examiner has asserted that Leir teaches electron rich groups as required by Applicants' claims because "considering the amount of tertiary amine groups in the examples, the copolymer in '236 will inherently contain at least some tertiary amine groups."

Leir does not, however, appear to teach or suggest priming compositions or pressure sensitive adhesives that are capable of adhering to a substrate comprising acid functional groups. Leir's block copolymers require "a certain minimum ionic content" in order to achieve water compatibility or dispersibility (see, page 7, lines 16 – 17, of Leir). Ionic groups would, in fact, interfere with the adherence of priming compositions and pressure sensitive adhesives to substrates comprising acid functional groups. Applicants therefore submit that the claimed invention is

indeed novel and patentable over Leir and respectfully request that the rejections under §§ 102 and 103 be withdrawn.

Concluding Remarks

Applicants' acknowledge the Examiner's note that U.S. Patent No. 5,461,134 does not correspond to EP 380 236, and agree with the Examiner.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of Applicants' claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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